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CHICAGO OUTLET *WAGS-2000*

(*11:30-12:30 PM*)

TIME

(*FRIDAY 12 1987*)

DATE

(*FRIDAY*)

DAY

• PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

• REMARKS

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Here they are in the Ranger station, now, with the guests about due to arrive ---

JIM: (FADING IN) Can I help you with the refreshments, Boss?

BESS: No, Jim. Everything's all fixed.

JIM: What are we going to have?

BESS: You'll find out soon enough. Did you get wood for the fireplace?

JIM: Yeah. Woodbox is full and running over.

BESS: Folks will start coming pretty soon. You'd better get your coat on.

JIM: Oh, there's plenty of time, Boss.

JERRY: (FADING IN) All set for the big party?

BESS: It's not going to be much of a party, Jerry. Just a few people coming in. -- My, but you look nice, all dressed up. Mary ought to be proud of you.

JIM: You don't look natural when you get all dolled up like that son. (CHUCKLES)

JERRY: (LAUGHING) I don't feel natural, Jim.

BESS: Why, Jim, what a terrible thing to say. I like you much better this way, Jerry.

JERRY: Thanks, Mrs. Robbins. Gee, I'm sorry Mary and I can't be here tonight, but Mary promised this friend of hers in Willow Glen that she'd come down there for her Valentine party.

BESS: I'm glad you're going, Jerry. You and Mary don't get to go out often enough.

JERRY: Who all's coming here tonight?

BESS: Oh, mostly the same ones who always do. I've asked Kate Barber, too. I thought she'd enjoy it.

JERRY: I like Miss Barber. She's a good sport.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Better not let Mary hear you say that.

JERRY: Mary thinks so too. Everybody does.

JIM: You invited Dan Jacobson, too, didn't you, Bess?

BESS: Yes, I did. Poor old Dan.

JIM: You know Dan and Kate used to be pretty fond of each other. They were engaged once, I think.

BESS: (HEBITANTLY) Well -- yes -- I guess they were, wasn't they?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Wouldn't be doing a little matchmaking would you, Bess?

BESS: Why, Jim, of course not. I only asked them both because I thought they'd enjoy coming over.

JERRY: Dan Jacobson wouldn't enjoy anything. He's too busy snarling all the time.

BESS: That's just the reason I invited him. He never goes anywhere. I think it will do him good to get out and meet folks.

JERRY: Dan's a woman hater.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) You mean he thinks he is, Jerry.

JERRY: Gee, that guy's so grouchy no woman would want to marry him.

JIM: M-m-m I don't know about that. Maybe some women have a kinder sense of observation than you have, Jerry.

JERRY: They'd have to to see anything in Dan Johnson.

BECK: He wasn't like that when Kate Barber and he were going together.

JIM: There, you see, Jerry. Kate appreciates Dan.

JERRY: You mean she used to. What made them break up? Did Kate give him his walking papers?

BECK: Oh, no. It was the other way around. Dan got angry once and never went to see Kate again.

JIM: Happened at a party about ten years ago, didn't it, Beck?

BECK: Yes. It was a Valentine's party, held at the school house. It was an awfully cold night. And Dan and one of the other men went out to look at their horses to see if they were all right. When they came back into the school house, the first thing Dan saw was Kate, standing in the middle of the room kissing Ronny Dobson. They had been playing "favorites" and Kate had lost. Dan didn't say a word. He just turned on his heel and walked out. He never went to see Kate again. And ever since that night, he's always called her "Miss Barber," whenever they met.

JERRY: He's crazy, that guy is. It serves him right to lose her.

BECK: I thought so, too, Jerry. But Kate always defends him, whenever folks make fun of him or talk about his being so crazy.

JIM: Well, I think Kate's right to defend him. She knows more about him than most of us do. But Dan's got a star in his mouth that even Kate doesn't support. He's done some awfully fine things that practically nobody knows anything about.

JERRY: I don't know what they could be.

JIM: Dan's one of those queer fellows that tries to cover up a big heart by being sneaky and mean on the outside.

JERRY: Solly, it's getting late. I've got to go for Mary. (FADING)
Have a good party.

BOSS: Your overcoat's in the office, Jerry.

JERRY: (OFF) Thanks. Goodbye.

THEY REPLY

BOSS: Oh, Jim, isn't it going to be a little risky?

JIM: What do you mean, Boss?

BOSS: Having Kate and Dan here at the same time?

JIM: Oh, I don't know.

BOSS: (ANXIOUSLY) I don't think we ought to bother, Jim. It isn't our affair at all.

JIM: (REASSURING) Oh, of course not, Boss. Of course not. Matchmaking's not in our line --- I haven't seen Kate for almost a year. What's she look like now?

BOSS: She's just as lovely as ever. (FADING) She was asking about you, Jim. I told her you'd speak for yourself ---

MUSIC: (INTERLUDE)

SOUND: (FADE IN CROWD IN BACKGROUND, LIGHTLY. OCCASIONAL LAUGHTER)

JIM: (FADING IN) Well, here's Alex Barber. How are you Kate? It certainly is good to see you again.

KATE: Thank you, Mr. Robbins. I haven't seen you for ages.

JIM: I asked Bess how you looked now, and she said "as usual" as
usual. (KATE LAUGHS) But I think she's wrong.

KATE: Do you?

JIM: I think you get better looking every day.

KATE: (LAUGHING) And you acquire more blarney.

BESS: (GRADING UP) Well, Kate, have you seen all the folks yet?

KATE: Mr. Robbins and I got to talking. I'm afraid I haven't seen
anybody else.

BESS: They're all here, except Dan Jacobson. He should be here any
minute.

JIM: Oh, he'll be here, the crabby old buzzard.

KATE: Oh, he isn't "old," Mr. Robbins. I don't see why folks call
on referring to him as "old" Dan Jacobson.

JIM: Maybe if he'd smile once a month they wouldn't do it.

KATE: He really needs someone to take care of him and keep house
for him. I think he'd be a different man.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Nothing would change that old born toad.

KATE: There you go again, calling him "old". He isn't old, Mr.
Robbins.

BESS: I don't understand you, Jim. Only an hour ago you were saying
you thought Dan was one of the ---

JIM: (INTERRUPTING) Well, Kate, maybe you're right. I see your
point.

SOUND: (OFF --- KNOCKING ON DOOR)

BESS: That must be Dan now. (FADING) I'll go see.

JIM: Yes, sir, maybe you're right, Kate.

SOUND: (DOOR OPENS -- OFF)

BESS: (OFF) Come in, Dan. I'm awfully glad you could come.

DAN: (OFF) Hello, Mrs. Robbins. Wait'll I knock the snow off my shoes.

SOUND: (OFF) -- STAMPING OF FEET.

BESS: (OFF) That's all right. Here's a mat inside.

SOUND: (OFF -- DOOR CLOSING)

DAN: (FADING IN) (SOUR) I only came because you asked me to, Mrs. Robbins. Don't care for parties like this, much.

BESS: (FADING IN) Oh, I'm glad you came, Dan. I'm sure you'll have a good time.

JIM: Hello, Dan. Maybe you'll have a good time in spite of yourself. (CHUCKLES)

DAN: Well, I'm not expecting to.

JIM: You're not too old to be surprised.

KATE: Hello, Dan.

DAN: (EMBARRASSED) Oh -- oh -- Hello -- oh -- Miss Servant. I didn't know you were going to be here.

KATE: (LIGHTLY) Will you have to leave now?

DAN: Huh? Well, I guess not -- I don't know.

BESS: I want you to come over and meet all the folks, Dan.

DAN: I've met 'em all, Mrs. Robbins. I know every one of 'em.

JIM: Go ahead and say hello to 'em, Dan.

DAN: What for? I haven't come back from any place.

JIM: It's one of the rules of the party, Dan. You've got to circulate if you want's got any refreshments.

KATE: Why don't you, Dan?

DAN: Oh, well, I guess it won't do any harm. (FADING) There! So he start, Mrs. Robbins?

HEBB: (FADING) Let's go speak to the Thompson's first.

KATE: (LAUGHING SOFTLY) Poor Dan. His evening's ruined already.

JIM: If it is, it'll be his own fault, bless his hide. (CHUCKLING)

KATE: He is funny, isn't he? He tries so hard to be good and properly.

JIM: He darned near succeeds, if you ask me.

KATE: I know. I wish there was something I could --

JIM: What'd you say, Kate?

KATE: Oh, nothing. Let's go join the others.

JIM: Wait a minute, Kate --

KATE: Yes?

JIM: Does Dan smoke cigars?

KATE: Why --- I don't know, Mr. Robbins. He used to.

JIM: That's good.

KATE: Why do you ask?

JIM: Oh, anything to help him have a good time. (FADING) I just want him to enjoy this party, that's all.

MUSIC: (INTERLUDE)

SOUND: (GROWN EFFECT AS IN PREVIOUS SCENE)

JIM: (FADING IN) Well, Dan, is the party as bad as you thought it was going to be? (CHUCKLING)

DAN: To tell you the truth, Jim, it isn't as bad as I figured it'd be.

JIM: Well, that's something.

DAN: Yes! It is!

JIM: Ever smoke cigars?

DAN: I haven't for some time. But I don't mind if I do.

JIM: I've got some good ones in my office. (FADING) (UPPER BACKGROUND FADE2) Come on in and sample 'em.

DAN: (FADING) Guess it won't hurt me any.

JIM: (AFTER PAUSE) (FADING IN) Here they are on the desk. Have one, Dan.

DAN: M-m-m-fancy wrappin' and everything, eh?

SOUND: (RATTLE OF CELLOPHANE)

JIM: Yep. Keeps 'em from drying out. I don't smoke 'em much. Stick pretty close to my old time Meers. (AFTER PAUSE)

SOUND: (STRIKING OF MATCH)

DAN: Thanks.

JIM: How'd it taste?

DAN: M-m-m somebody give 'em to you for Christmas?

JIM: Yes. Yeah, they did. Why?

DAN: I just figured you wouldn't buy anything for yourself that tasted this bad.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Why, Dan, that's one of the best cigars you ever smoked. It's only the bad taste you've got in your mouth from crabbng so much.

DAN: Nothing to be so all-fired pleasant about what I know of.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) You're not fooling me any, Dan.

DAN: Whatays mean?

JIM: You're not as hard-boiled as you try to make out.

DAN: What are you talking about?

JIM: Anybody that'd buy a ranch for twice what it's worth must be kinda soft in the head.

DAN: Who says I bought a ranch? I never bought any ranch that anybody ever heard of.

JIM: Things do have a way of leakin' out, after a time. You bought Kate Barber's ranch, after her father died, for twice what anybody would have paid for it.

DAN: I did no such thing. I wasn't even at the sale.

JIM: But your agent was. And you lost so much on it that it almost broke you.

DAN: Who told you I bought Kate Barber's ranch?

JIM: And the only reason you did it was to make things easy for Kate, so she'd have enough to get along on.

DAN: Now, listen, here, Jim. I reckon there's no use makin' you told you. But you've got to promise me you won't ever tell what you know about it. There isn't anybody else knows, is there?

JIM: Not that I know of, Dan.

DAN: I only did it for Kate like I would for anybody else that needed a lift. It wouldn't be decent to stand by and let somebody you know having trouble without you doing something about it.

JIM: I guess that's right, Dan.

DAN: Kate Barber made a fool of me once and I ain't no fool that it doesn't happen again.

JIM: Kate made a fool of you, Dan?

DAN: She sure did.

JIM: Well, I wouldn't have thought that of Kate.

DAN: Neither would I. But she did it just the same.

JIM: Well, you never can tell, can you, Dan?

DAN: I should say you can't -- Matter of fact, it happened ten years ago this month ----

JIM: You don't say.

DAN: Maybe you remember it. I think you and Mrs. Robinson were there.

JIM: Where was it?

DAN: At the schoolhouse. It was a cold night. Delect's is is now --- Kate and I'd only been engaged a little more'n a week ----

JIM: I see

DAN: Like Trackler and I went out to look at our horses, about eleven o'clock. Figured they might have shucked their blankets, moving around. Well, we came back into the schoolhouse, after a few minutes, and what do you think I saw?

JIM: What was it, Dan?

DAN: Kate, the girl I was engaged to marry, was standing in the middle of the floor, kissin' that benjo-plunker's coxhand, Bonny Dobson.

JIM: You don't say, Dan.

DAN: Yes, I do. She was makin' me the laughing stock of the town, right there before the whole crowd. I didn't say a word. For a minute I didn't know what to think or do or anything. Then somebody saw me, and they all started laughing. I wanted to take everybody in the place and knock their heads together and run away with Kate. But the only thing I could do was to get out. So I did. And I've never spoken a word to her since then, except when I had to.

JIM: I'm mighty sorry to hear that about Kate. Mighty sorry. Somehow I always thought she was a pretty fine person. It's too bad she's that kind.

DAN: Whadaya mean, "that kind"? Kate Barber's as fine a woman as ever walked the earth. She may have her faults, but none of us are perfect.

JIM: Of course she is, Dan. Only I was just wondering what would make a fine woman like Kate do anything like that.

DAN: You know, Jim -- that's what always had me baffled. I never had any idea she was sweet on that boy, Dobson.

JIM: You know, Dan, that reminds me of a fella I knew that got himself into a lot of trouble over a case just like yours.

DAN: That right?

JIM: Yeah. You see, he and his wife were at a party. And he was standing around, talking to some of the other men there, when one of 'em called his attention to what was happening out in the hall. Well, there was his wife, standing in the middle of the floor, kissing a young fella.

DAN: Go on, Jim.

JIM: I only brought this up because that story you just told me reminded me of it.

DAN: Sure, I know. Go ahead.

JIM: Well, sir, the husband practically jumped into the next room and grabbed that fella by his neck. He started bustin' the daylights out of 'im. Of course the other men at the party gathered around and pulled 'em apart. Then they told the husband what it was all about.

DAN: Yeah.

JIM: Well, it was a perfectly simple explanation. You see, they'd been playing this game called "forfeits," and the man's wife had lost; so she had to forfeit a kiss -- see what I mean?

DAN: Oh --- They were playing a game.

JIM: Yes, that's right. And, believe me, Dan, that husband's never, to this day, got over being sorry for what he did.

DAN: I see --- Jim, do you think ---

JIM: What, Dan?

DAN: Do you think, when I came into the schoolhouse that night, they -- they might have been only --- only playing the game of forfeits?

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MUSIC: (FINALE)

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you every Friday on the
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